

YALE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

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Doctor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your comments were by no means confusing, and I think that your idea that genetic transduction can take place in tumors is a brilliant thought and a puzzling possibility which certainly has to be kept in mind.

However, the tumor viruses so far known do not lose their carcinogenic power regardless of the living media in which they are grown. For, if it is true, as we have shown in the past, that chicken sarcoma viruses behave as ordinary destroying viruses when grown in the embryo, they retain their cancer inducing properties as shown by the induction of tumors at the end of several passages through embryonic hosts.

On the other hand, the fowl pox virus activated by methylcholanthrene applied to the skin of chickens does not seem to have acquired any new property and, to judge by the experience so far available, the virus recovered from tumors injected into normal chickens induces in these hosts the lesions usually caused by the virus. However, more careful studies will perhaps change this view.

Under separate cover I am sending you a reprint concerned with the growth of the Rous sarcoma in the chicken.

Sincerely yours,



F. Duran-Reynals, M.D.

FDR/j